Changes in Postal Department

1545. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has put forward a plan to ensure that Postal Department becomes self-sustaining by the year 2009;

(b) if so, the changes suggested by the Planning Commission on various aspect of the postal department;

(c) whether any changes would be initiated in the current financial year by the Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. However, making the Department of Posts self-financing is one of the major objectives of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Public Health Policies

1546. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has held a number of meetings with the Health Ministry;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Planning Commission has not been able to make concrete and tactical suggestions in the arena dealing with health;

(c) what steps would be taken to upgrade the personnel and policy makers in the Planning Commission dealing with health and public health policies;

(d) whether the Planning Commission would implement strict guidelines on how the Planning Commission should evolve policies for diverse subejcts; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (e) The Planning Commission is

currently engaged in completing the Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan. Over the past two months, each of the over twenty five Divisions of the Planning Commission has been deliberating with the relevant nodal Ministry through Quarterly Performance Review and Annual Plan discussions about the financial allocations assigned to any given sector, the utilization of funds and savings, if any, the need to bring about modifications in the existing structures and schemes.

Besides, stakeholders consultations with civil society, demographers and researchers have also been completed.

The Mid Term Appraisal will indicate, where necessary, the need for change in existing structures and schemes. The entire exercise of Mid Term Appraisal would be completed in the week ahead.

The Planning Commission has already taken steps to appropriately upgrade and position the personnel in the Health Division.

Weather forecasting facility in Maharashtra

1547. SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BALAPTE:
SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up 'An advance weather forecasting' facility in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a), does not arise.

(c) The weather forecasting facilities already exist at Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur in Maharashtra, which give weather forecast for next 48 hours along with outlook for subsequent 2 days.

Drugs From Medicinal Plants

1548. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new drugs and molecules developed so far from important medicinal plants;